

of the vessel and the number of her State oyster license, if she has one; the names of the owners and master, the names, places of birth, ages and residences of the various members of the crew, together with the amount of wages to be paid to each respectively, and the date of employment of each member, and the expiration of the period of such employment is to terminate, the amount of advance, if any, made at the time of such contract, and whether in money or articles, and the respective prices of such articles; one of said duplicate contracts shall be entered in a book to be kept by said commissioner in his office expressly for said purpose, and shall be delivered at the termination of his office to his successor, and said book shall be open for inspection at all times; one of said duplicate contracts shall be delivered by the commissioner to the captain of the boat or vessel, and the other preserved by the commissioner; third, the crew or any member of the same of any such boat or vessel shall be discharged and paid off before a commissioner of the district named as the place of discharge in the contract, and if such place be before a commissioner other than the one before whom such member was engaged, then it shall be the duty of the commissioner before whom the discharge was made to inform the other commissioner by letter of such discharge; and it shall be the duty of any commissioner thus appointed to hear and determine all complaints of the non-performance of said contract, and this, certified under his hand and seal, to be furnished on demand, shall be prima facie proof of the violation of the contract, and of the amount of damages suffered thereby, in any court, before any justice of the peace of this State; fourth, every contract or agreement entered into before a shipping commissioner shall be acknowledged by the persons executing the same and certified under the hand and official seal of such commissioner; the certificate of acknowledgment shall be endorsed on, or annexed to the contract, and shall be in the following form: State of Maryland, — District, — on this — day of — A. D. —, personally appeared before me, a State Shipping Commissioner, in and for said district, severally known to me to be the same persons who executed the foregoing instrument, who each for himself acknowledged to me that he had read, or had heard read, the same; that he was by me made acquainted with the condition thereof and understood the same, and that, while sober, and not in a state of intoxication, he signed it freely and voluntarily for the uses and purposes therein mentioned; fifth, and the said shipping commissioner shall procure and keep official seal, with the

Form of con-
tract.